

My friends in DFCCIL,

I feel privileged to address you - the valued member of our closely knit DFCCIL Family on the eve of close of Gregorian Calendar Year 2024. While bidding adieu to the departing Year 2024, let me begin with a quote from *Ralph Waldo Emerson* :

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

It has been a year of momentous achievements for the DFCCIL. DFCCIL, under the enabling support and guidance of our visionary Minister of Railways and Railway Board, has scaled new heights of achievements, touched seemingly distant operational milestones and, as widely acclaimed by user Industry, proven itself to be the cornerstone of India's freight transportation structure. Study from independent Expert reveal that DFCCIL's growing contribution through Heavier, Longer, Faster & Greener Transportation, no longer a wishful slogan, may result in our national logistic costs coming down substantially, thereby enhancing our business competitiveness to meet the objectives of *Viksit Bharat@2047* - the comprehensive plan visualised, conceptualised and put in motion by our visionary Prime Minister.

My friends, a wonderful dawn of opportunity awaits as the New Year 2025 flutters its wings to Soar to glorious height but a mere flip of calendar would not make things happen. We need to redouble our efforts to spread the DFCCIL imprint still more delibly on the National Transportation Landscape, expand our business horizon, our earnings. We must plan, do the plan, check the results and then correct any problems in what is now popularly known as PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) or Deming's cycle - a cycle ensuring continuous improvement. For this to happen, key driver would be a Disciplined approach.

My friends, we are entering into a phase, where we may be facing stiff competition. We must be ready to work innovatively to turn the head winds into tail winds. To draw inspiration from John C. Maxwell, we must plan our priorities to unquestionably value the work process, not wait for others to provide inspiration, be willing to sacrifice pleasure for opportunity, give up to go up, work cohesively - and not against each other - in absolute alignment with our objectives with a commitment to grow continuously. We must bond together to function as a single well-oiled machine, with inter-departmental harmony, and solve the issues with a smiling handshake, which would provide magical results. For this, the combo of effective communication and mutual trust is an essential prerequisite. Thus, everyone would be a winner with a work environment providing satisfaction and a much improved life.

My friends, another point, I would like to press upon is Integrity, synonymous with "incorruptibility" often used interchangeably with "honesty". **Integrity**, as author C.S. Lewis said ***“is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.”*** Integrity is a foundational moral virtue, and the bedrock upon which good character is built. Acting with integrity means understanding, accepting and choosing to live in accordance with established principles, which include honesty, fairness, and decency. An employee with high moral values and integrity is a cherishable asset of the organisation.

Praveen Kumar

My Friends, an improved work ethics, including your attitude, communication abilities, behaviour towards co-workers, honesty and accountability, combined with attributes mentioned earlier, would make you a true professional, who would ensure an all-time adherence to laid down system, honour commitments, be attentive, responsive and proactive. A professional would find common ground with colleagues, wouldn't try to make others look bad, be mindful of his position and prefer Company's success over personal gains. I would emphasise that each DFCCIL personnel inculcates and develops a professional approach in his/her work culture.

In present times, technological advancements are happening at a dizzying pace. With Artificial Intelligence (AI) being on the sprint, the Moore's law predicting doubling of computational power every two year has proven wrong, now the period is reduced to six months or even less. We must keep pace and adopt the latest and futuristic technology in order to draw maximum advantage. An AI-driven inspection, data analysis, Predictive & Preventive maintenance would reduce the asset downtime and ensure its availability at full operational functionality.


My friends, ensuring Safety has been and must remain as our prime area of focus. We must use our resources optimally for an efficient Inspection-based timely Maintenance. Every effort must be made to ensure that our assets continue to function fully over their stipulated life cycle with no interruption. Machine Vision Inspection System (MVIS) Inspection, timely mechanised maintenance, special operation like grinding and lubrication of Rail should be focus areas.

My friends, spreading the knowledge through sharing has always been at the forefront of our consideration. The training of DFCCIL personnel in a time bound periodical manner would retain its place amongst our priority areas. In HHI, we have built a Training Institute with state-of-the-art infrastructure. DFCCIL has collaborated with renowned Institutes like IIT-Roorkee and Monash University. In collaboration with M/s. LORAM-USA and Plasser, DFCCIL has established Centres of Excellence in HHI. We need to plan collectively to ensure that even our grassroot personnel is adequately trained.

My friends, as MD, I am always your friend, your considerate partner in this/our collective endeavour. I would invite you to share your innovative ideas with me anytime.

I would sign off for the time being with a message that Let's continue to grow and shine in the coming year. Let's face all challenges with courage and see even better results. Take some time to smell the roses, spend some quality times with your family. Our families have been our staunch supporter and they deserve nothing less than a standing ovation for their selfless standing by us through thick and thin.

I, along with my family, wish you and your families a wonderful, cheerful and prosperous New year. May you all keep smiling in a bliss of satisfaction.


(Praveen Kumar)